APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/089,011	06/02/98	BANSAL	P 2-9

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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2761	3

DATE MAILED: 04/12/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.	Applicant(s)
09/089,011	Bansal et al.
Examiner	Group Art Unit
RAQUEL ALVAREZ	2761

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *Jun 2, 1998*

☐ This action is **FINAL**.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire ___*three*___ month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

☒ Claim(s) *1-32* is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) *1-32* is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

☒ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐approved ☐disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____ .

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____ .

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). ___*2*___

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- *SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES* ---

DETAILED ACTION

1.   Claims 1-32 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112

2.   Claims 18 and 31 are rejected as been vague and indefinite: claim 18 calls for "An article

of manufacture" wherein the body of the claim recites method steps and therefore claims which

depend therefrom are also rejected. Under 35 U.S.C. 112 2nd the claims of a patent must be clear

and definite. For purpose of examination a method seems to be recited because of the steps in the

claims. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that forms

the basis for the rejection under this section made in this office action:

> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or
>
> on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3.   .Claims 17-21, 23, 30, 31 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by

Jones et al. (5,400,020, Jones hereinafter).

With respect to claim 17, Jones teaches an apparatus for managing a scheduling

system(Abstract). Means for receiving information about an appointment from a user(i.e. a bus

schedule for each bus is programmed into the advance notification system as determined by the

respective bus drivers(users))(col. 5, lines 30-45); means for receiving information about an

attendee associated with the appointment, including attendee notification information (i.e. a

student(attendees) list containing the student names, student telephone number, and time when the student should be called if there is any delays is kept in a database)(col. 9, lines 5-24); means for determining if the user will be late for the appointment (i.e. if the bus is going to be late is determined by comparing the departure time to the scheduled departure time to calculate how behind schedule the bus is going to be)(col. 7, lines 4-11); and means for sending an attendee notification message to the attendee using the attendee notification information when the user will be late for the appointment(Figures 5-7).

Claim 18 is the method of performing the system of claim 18 and therefore is rejected under similar rationale.

With respect to claims 19, 30 and 31, Jones teaches a method for managing a scheduling system(Abstract). Receiving information about an appointment, including appointment time information and appointment location information from a user(Figure 4); receiving user location information(col. 6, lines 1-11); and determining if the user will be late for the appointment based on the user location information, the appointment location information, the appointment time information and a time associated with the user location information (col. 2, lines 40-56; col. 3, lines 65-, col. 4, lines 1-27; col. 6, lines 27-68).

With respect to claim 20, Jones further teaches calculating a travel distance based on the appointment location information and the user location information(col. 7, lines 4-11); calculating a time of arrival based on the time associated with the user location information, the travel distance and a travel velocity(col. 5, lines 30-45); and comparing the calculated time of arrival

with the appointment time information(col. 2, lines 40-56; col. 3, lines 65-, col. 4, lines 1-27; col. 6, lines 27-68).

With respect to claim 21, Jones further teaches that the user location information is generated by a global positioning satellite receiver (col. 6, lines 1-11).

With respect to claim 23, Jones further teaches that the location information is received through a communication network (i.e. each of the vehicle computer unit(12) is installed in each of school buses 19, all which communicate with the single base station control unit(14). If there's changes in the schedule then control unit(12) sends a notification to computer(14) so that the notification process can start).

4.   Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Scully et al. (4,819,191 Scully hereinafter).

With respect to claim 32, Scully teaches a method for managing a scheduling system(Abstract). Determining meeting status information based on information about an appointment and information about a user (Figures 3a, 3b and col. 4, lines 16-66); and automatically generating an attendee notification message, using stored attendee notification information, based on the meeting status information (Figures 3a, 3b and col. 4, lines 16-66).

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
>
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
>
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
>
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
>
> manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 1-9, 12-15, 16, 22 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Jones.

In regards to claim 1, Jones teaches a method for managing a scheduling system(Abstract).

Receiving information about an appointment from a user (i.e. a bus schedule for each bus is

programmed into the advance notification system as determined by the respective bus

drivers(users))(col. 5, lines 30-45); receiving information about an attendee associated with the

appointment, including attendee notification information (i.e. a student(attendees) list containing

the student names, student telephone number, and time when the student should be called if there

is any delays is kept in a database)(col. 9, lines 5-24); determining status information (i.e. if the

bus is going to be late is determined by comparing the departure time to the scheduled departure

time to calculate how behind schedule the bus is going to be)(col. 7, lines 4-11); and automatically

generating an attendee notification message using the attendee notification based on the status

information(col. 7, lines 4-32).

Jones does not specifically teach that the status information is on a meeting. Nevertheless, Jones

teaches determining the status information on the bus which like a meeting has

passengers(attendees) waiting and knowing the accurate schedule time is imperative to the people

involved so they can adjust their schedules and avoid arriving too early or late(col. 1, lines 48-53).

With respect to claim 2, Jones further teaches automatically generating an attendee

notification message when the status indication information indicates that the user will be late for

the appointment(col. 7, lines 4-32).

With respect to claim 3, Jones further teaches that the attendee notification information is

a telephone number and said step of generating is performed by generating an audio message(col.

4, lines 46-60).

Claim 4 further recites that the attendee notification is performed by generating an

electronic mail message. Official notice is taken that is old and well known at the time of

Applicant's invention to have replaced the telephone with e-mail message for notifying the

attendee of changes of schedule because such a modification would provide another means of

communication.

With respect to claim 5, Jones further teaches that the status information is received from

a computer through a communication network (i.e. each of the vehicle computer unit(12) is

installed in each of school buses 19, all which communicate with the single base station control

unit(14). If there's changes in the schedule then control unit(12) sends a notification to

computer(14) so that the notification process can start).

With respect to claims 6 and 7, Jones further teaches that the step of determining is based on information received from a wireless telephone through a communication network(col. 2, lines 40-56).

With respect to claim 8, Jones further teaches receiving user location information(i.e. The bus location at a particular time could then be compared with scheduled locations and scheduled times in order to determine whether the bus 19 is early or late and by what amount(col. 5, lines 65-, col. 6, lines 1-11); deciding if the user will be late for the appointment based on the appointment time information, the appointment location information, the user location information and time associated with the user location information (col. 2, lines 40-56; col. 3, lines 65-, col. 4, lines 1-27; col. 6, lines 27-68).

With respect to claim 9, Jones further teaches calculating a travel distance based on the appointment location information and the user location information(col. 7, lines 4-11); calculating a time of arrival based on the time associated with the user location information, the travel distance and a travel velocity(col. 5, lines 30-45); and comparing the calculated time of arrival with the appointment time information(col. 2, lines 40-56; col. 3, lines 65-, col. 4, lines 1-27; col. 6, lines 27-68).

With respect to claim 12, Jones further teaches that the steps of receiving can be performed from multiple access devices(i.e. the information can be received via a telephone or a computer)(see rejection to claims 5-7).

With respect to claim 13, Jones further teaches sending the attendee notification message

to the attendee(col. 4, lines 28-60).

With respect to claim 14, Jones does not specifically teach receiving an attendee response

from the attendee. Since, in Jones an attendee notification message is sent to the attendee(col. 4,

lines 28-60) then it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

Applicant's invention at the time of Applicant's invention to have included receiving an attendee

response because such a modification would assure the sender that the message was received.

With respect to claim 15, Jones further teaches comparing the calculated time of arrival

with the appointment time information and a predetermined fixed period of time(Figures 4-7).

With respect to claims 16 and 29, Jones teaches a scheduler database for storing

information about an appointment and information about an attendee associated with the

appointment, including attendee notification information((i.e. a student(attendees) list containing

the student names, student telephone number, and the respective times of when the student should

be picked up is kept in a database)(col. 9, lines 5-24); and a scheduling unit and said scheduler

database configured to determine if a user will be late for the appointment, said scheduling unit

being further configured to send an attendee notification message to the attendee using the

attendee notification information when the user will be late for the appointment(Figures 4-7).

Jones does not specifically teach that the scheduling unit is coupled to the scheduler database.

Official notice is taken that is old and well known in the computer related arts to have units

coupled to each other in joining or linking the units together. It would have been obvious to a

person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included coupling the scheduler unit to the scheduler database because such a modification would provide easier access and communication between the units.

Claim 22 further recites that the location information is calculated from an automatic identification number. Official notice is taken that is old and well known to use caller ID to automatically identify the location that the person is calling from. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to have included calculating the location information from a device such as caller ID because such a modification would save time by identify the location of the caller without the need to interchange much information.

6.   Claims 10-11 and 24-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jones in view of Tognazzini(5,790,974 hereinafter Tognazzini).

With respect to claims 10 and 24, Jones further teaches adjusting the travel distance based on the appointment location information, the user location information(col. 5, lines 30-, col. 7, lines 1-32). Jones does not specifically teach receiving map information from a database and adjusting the travel distance based on the mapping information. On the other hand, Tognazzini teaches receiving map information from a mapping database to adjust travel distance (Figures 4B-4C). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's

invention to have included adjusting the travel distance based on the mapping information because

such a modification would provide optimal travel route to the use(in Tognazzini col. 2, lines 38-,

col. 3, lines 1-2).

Claims 11, 25-27 further recites receiving environment information wherein the

environment information is weather and traffic information and adjusting the travel velocity based

on that information. The combination of Jones and Tognazzini teaches adjusting the travel

velocity based on the traffic information(in Tognazzini, col. 14, lines 62-, col. 15, lines 1-2). The

combination of Jones and Tognazzini do not specifically teach that the adjusting of the travel

velocity is based on weather information. Official notice is taken that is old and well known in the

arts to adjust ones travel velocity in bad weather to decrease the risks of accidents. It would have

been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify

the traffic information with the weather information to obtain the above mentioned advantages.

Claim 28 further recites that the environment information is airline information. The

combination of Jones and Tognazzini teaches adjusting the travel velocity based on the traffic

information(in Tognazzini, col. 14, lines 62-, col. 15, lines 1-2). The combination of Jones and

Tognazzini do not specifically teach that the adjusting of the travel velocity is based on airline

information. Official notice is taken that is old and well known in the arts to adjust ones travel

velocity(speed) if there's any delays in the airlines because by the airline being delayed the whole

traveling process of an individual would be delayed as a consequence. It would have been obvious

to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to modify the speed of

traveling if there's notification that there's any delays in the airlines that he or she is traveling

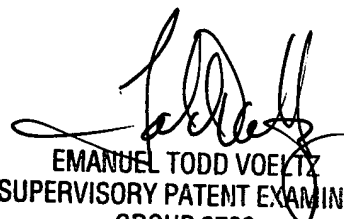because such a modification would enable the person to plan ahead.

Points Of Contact

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communications from the examiner should be directed to

Raquel Alvarez whose telephone number is (703) 305-0456. The examiner can normally be

reached on Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM. To 5:00 PM.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, The examiner's

supervisor, Todd Voeltz can be reached on (703) 305-9714. The fax phone number for this

group is (703) 305-0040.

March 30, 2000

EMANUEL TODD VOELTZ
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GROUP 2700